Literacy Survey

2151. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Govemment have formulated a National Action Plan for conducting literacy survey, for eradication of illiteracy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Govemment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c)The goal of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) is to attain full literacy *i.e.* a sustainable threshold level of 75% by the year 2005. The NLM seeks to achieve this goal through the schemes of Literacy Compaigns and Operation Restoration as well as Continuing Education progamme.

Literacy Surveys for identification of the number of non-literates already form part of the initial project activities under the Scheme of Literacy Campaigns and Operation Restoration. No separate National Action Plan for conducting a literacy sujfvey is under consideration.

A comprehensive "ational survey on the status of literacy has been carried out as part of the Census 2001. The Census 2001 (Provisional) Report indicates that the literacy rate in the country has increased from 52.21% in 1991 to 65.38% in 2001. This is the highest decadal growth rate since independence. For the first time there is a decline in the absolute number of non-literates.

Biotechnology in HTs

2152. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce Biotechnology in all the UTs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it include graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes;

(c) if so, how funds are going to be pooled for this purpose;

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce Biotechnology in other institutions, apart from UTs, such as HIT, HIM and RECs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (e) The Govemment of India have decided in principal to give special thrust in the area of Biotechnology in primer institutions including Indian Institutes of Technology (UTs). This includes graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes in Biotechnology in phased manner. The Govemment of India intends to provide special funding for this purpose. Apart from UTs, other institutions shall be picked up on selection basis.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in States

2153. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has approved the District Elementary Education Programmes;

(b) if so, for how many districts the scheme has been approved, Statewise;

(c) the amount involved in this; and

(d) the allocation under this programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Project Approval Board has approved the Annual Work Plans for 2001-2002 for various States, details of which are given below:—

(Rupees in crores)

SI.No.	Name of the State	No. of District Plans approved	Approved Outlay
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	53.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	3.57
3.	Assam	23	76.52
4.	Bihar	18	67.12
5.	Chhatisgarh	16	7.80
6.	Goa	0	0